NEW-YORK, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1877.

Vol ... XXXVI No. 11,187.

WASHINGTON.

THE CAMPAIGN OF INVESTIGATION. TWO COMMITTEES ROLLING UP THE LOUISIANA

EVIDENCE-OREGON-MISSISSIPPI. The letters of ex-Gov. Wells to Maddox and Senator West were produced before Proctor Knott's committee on Saturday; they were of a suspicious character; the committee refused to let Wells answer them then. Littlefield was examined at length by the Senate Committee. Three experts testified as to the cipher telegrams to Oregon; and evidence was taken showing that Democrats were supplied with duplicate keys for fraudulent purposes to the ballot-boxes in Mississippi. Judge Davis is en route for Illinois, but will not resign from the bench until March 4.

THE LOUISIANA INVESTIGATIONS. REFUSAL TO LET EX-GOV. WELLS TESTIFY ON SATUR-DAY-DAVID DUDLEY FIELD'S DISKEGARD OF PRO-

IBT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE ! WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.-The House Committee investigating the Louisiana election refused to let ex-Gov. Wells answer the testimony of Maddox until Monday. The reason of this was in order to as follows: give the letter which Maddox produced a day's start before the Commission and the country without explanation. Not only did the Democrats on the committee refuse to hear ex-Gov. Wells, but by a strict party vote in secret session decided that the fact of refusal should not be entered on the journal of the

No more disgusting political spectacle has ever been witnessed at the Capitol, and none has ever excited more indignant comment from decent men of both parties than David Dudley Field trotting back and forth between his seat among the Demoeratic counsel before the Electoral Commission and the seat he has usurped from Proctor Knott in the Louisiana Investigating Committee. On the first day, when the Commission heard arguments, Mr. Field rushed hastily through the building at the close of his speech to superintend the attempted badgering of Gen. Anderson of the Returning Board. He arrived breathless, but in time to browheat the committee and make his attempts on the witness. Yesterday he left the Supreme Court room precipitately to see that the committee dld not grant the demand of ex-Gov. Wells, his counsel, and the Republican members that Wells should in common justice be heard at once, so that his explanation of Maddox's evidence might go with the latter to the country. One of the Democratic members of the committee voted against Mr. Field, but the others

Ex-Gov. Wells's letters to Senator West and to Maddox, produced during the examination of Maddox by Proctor Knott's Committee yesterday have since been discussed in all their bearings. They are enticised mainly from political points of view. The Republicans of course insist that there is nothing in them which cannot be easily explained, and that even if not explained they are on the whole very harmless documents. The Democrats on the other hand speak of them as crushing letters, and do not believe that any explanation of their contents can be made. While it is of course unfair to pass judgment on them before ex-Gov. Wells has presented his side, it must be admitted that they have a suspicious look. The natural interpretation of the West letter is either that Wells was afraid that the Democrats would bribe other members of the board, and was therefore anxious that West should provide for outbidding the opposition, or that he himself was desirous of turning a dishonest penny in con-

nection with his official duties. TESTIMONY OF J. P. LITTLEFIELD, CLERK OF THE RETURNING BOARD-MR. MADDOX BEFORE THE COMMITTEE. Washington, Feb. 4.—The sub-committee of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections met pesterday morning at 11 o'clock, Senator Howe presid-The examination of J. F. Littlefield was continued, and in reply to questions by Senator Wadleigh the withess testified that he succeeded in getting on the roll of the New-Orleans Custom-house, with \$83 per month salmouths, working for the party-doing notic 1872; frequented bar-rooms, &c., but did not spend the was appointed cierk of the Returning Beard through Col Johnson, who had him appointed in the Custom-house; served as secretary of the board until its adjournment, about two weeks; was then appointed hay inspector by about two years and a half; had no permanent of most of the time at Spearing's stables; had gambled in during the past year with a lady, but objected to giving her name; she was not his wife served on the Beturning Board from Nov. 1 to the 23d of December last; Gov. Wells made the sug gestion to him of altering the returns on Sunday even-ing, Dec. 3; dined with the Returning Board that same evening; Gov. Wells called witness to him, and putting his finger on polls 2 and 9 of the electoral vote of Ver non Parish, said: "Littlefield, I want you to transpose these returns for the purpose of electing the Republican candidates." Witness made no answer, and the return were left with him; satut that same desk and transposed the vates, but did not complete the work that night, but got through with the electoral, State, and part of the parochial returns; left the returns under some paper parcehial returns; left the returns under some paper, and found them there the next morning; told Esten and Davis of his work; Eaton was drunk on Sunday evening, as they all were, and promised to assist him, but being soher the next morning refused; then told Woodward of his work; finished the work on Monday; put the return with the others; the return was brought back on Tuesday, marked "compiled." Four or five days afterward Gov. Wells teld withess to destroy it; made no reply; had canversed with Gov. Wells between the suggestion to after and the order to destroy. Gov. Wells was groing to after and the order to destroy. Gov. Wells was groing to after and the order to destroy. Gov. Wells was groing to after and the order to destroy. Gov. Wells was groing to after a Congressional contailties, witness had a talk with him, and he said he was worried because he had been questioned about the Vernon returns; said the matter ought to be fixed, and suggested to Davis to make a copy of that return, and then he would have them rejected, and would furnish the evidence on which they should be rejected himself; Davis wanted witness to asset him in making up this simulated return. Wells asked us if we had found those three polis; all the conversations were in the clerk's office; don't know whether the return we fabricated was signed; he asked us to find three polis; that would make up the returns which had been destroyed from Vernon Parish. This having been done Davis asked Wells to furnish his evidence on which to throw them out. Wells asked us if we had selected the three polis; we said, "Yes;" Mr. Davis asked him how soon his evidence would be in to throw them out. Wells asked us if we had selected the previous to going on that board; and the politics. He remained there till the morning of he day witness left New-Orleans. When witness first book this Vernon return it was in the politics, and Mr. Woodward never had any sequantioned witness the took this Vernon return it was in the politics and witness thinks he aw Gifford and found them there the next morning; Esten and Davis of his work; Eaton was drunk

cet out of New-Orleans alive if the Republicans knew it.

Ever talked with Gifford about it since; did afterward

alk with spearing about it on several occasions. Spear
ng wanted witness to allow him to use this information,

it would, he said, be for his interest. It was after the

saik with Gifford that witness had the talk with Collins.

The session adjourned till Monday. The Committee on the Powers, Privileges, and Duties of the House in counting the electoral vote

as follows:

New-Orleans, La., Nov. 21, 1876.

My dear Senator: I regret much not seeing you when here. I wanted to say much to you which would be at least impradent to put upon paper. I trust, however, to meet you in Washington as soon as the canvass is over which is upon us. Our duty as returning officers have augmented the magnitude of the desimy of the two great parties—may I not say the nation! I fully comprehend the situation, as well as my duty to the greatest living general, U.S. Grant. And not with my consent shall this oppressed people be governed by his paroled prisoners, aided by their white-livered cowards of the North. Let me, my esteemed Sir, warn you of the danger; millions have been sent here and will be used in the interest of Tilden. Unless some counter movement, it will be impossible for me, or any other individual, to arrest its productive results. The gentleman presenting this letter is fully aware of the moves, and if you allow, will communicate freely to our friends and act promptly, or results will be disastrous. A hant to the wise. (Strictly private and confidential) Yours very truly.

To the Hon, J. R. West, Washington, D. C. Senator West permitted the committee to take a copy

Senator West permitted the committee to take a copy

In the afternoon session J. Madison Wells submitted to

the committee the following letter:
The testimony of Joseph H. Maddiox having been taken
The testimony of Joseph H. Maddiox having been taken

five Democratic members of the committee voting to re- of the Union for fase, and the four Republican members voting to grant he request of Guy. Wells to be entered on the record of

THE MISSISSIPPI ELECTION.

DEMOCRATIC JUDGES OF ELECTION FURNISHED WITH DUPLICATE KEYS TO THE BALLOT-BOXES.

Washington, Feb. 4.-The investigation into the conduct of the late election in Mississippi was con-Elections yesterday morning. J. T. Lecester, President of the Hines County, Miss., Board of Registers, who refused to testify before the committee yesterday, was recalled and testified that there was a conference of the leading Democrats of Hines County held at Raymond, a short time before the election, at which it was proposed to furnish one of the Democratic judges of election at each polling place in Hines County with a duplicate key to the ballot-box at their respective polling places. Witness furnished their respective points places. Sometimes all about fifteen of these duplicate keys to different men, all of whom were white men, and who, he thinks, were Democrats. No one called on him for a key. He does not remember the name of any man to whom he give a key. He renembers that he slipped a small parcel into the vest pocket of one of the judges, remarking, as he did so, "Here is something which may be of use to you." Witness does not remember who this man was. He thought,

County. At his point the committee excused the witness until Monday.

Henry Ontlaw of Aberdeen, Monroe County, Miss., testified that all the political meetings which the colored Republicans attempted to hold in his county during the late campaign were broken up by armed bounderats. Witness was at a meeting in Aberdeen during the month of September last, and at that meeting 17 colored men were shot, some of them killed outright, and others were so seriously wounded that they have since died; witness stated that the Democrats had a practice of riding through Monroe County at night, taking colored men from their beds and whipping them, and that he and many of his rice had slept out of doors for several nights previous to the late election to preven being dragged from their homes and whipped; witness was womaned in the shoulder by a buillet at a political meeting in Septement

THE OREGON ELECTORAL VOTE. INVESTIGATING THE CIPHER DISPATCHES-POVERTY

OF THE OREGON DEMOCRATS. Washington, Feb. 4.-In the Oregon electoral investigation yesterday, Wm. D. Spencer, Journal Clerk of the United States Scuate, was called to give two cipher dispatches, one of which was addressed to W. T. Pelton of New-York, and signed by J. N. Patrick, and the other addressed to Sain. Tilden of New-York, signed "Gobble," Mr. Spencer testified that he thought the disputches where testified that he thought the dispatches ere written by the same person and with the same not of mk. His reason for thinking so was that many the letters to be found in both were similar in shape. c. James N. Fitzpatrick, a clerk in the office of the cretary of the United States Senate, agreed with Mr. sencer. Mr. McLennon of the Trenaury Department as called, and corroborated the testimony of the two sylone experts.

was cannot, and corporated the previous experts.

W. C. Grisweld, an Oregon Democrat, corroborated the testimony of Mr. Bellinger, Chairman of the Oregon Democratic Committee, and of Senator Kelly relative to the use of money by Democratis in connection with the Watts electoral case. He stated that the reason the Natural Committee were called upon to furnish Democrats were poerer than a church contribution be: The committee will finish taking testimony in this cas

MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT GRANT-A FOUR PER CENT BOND RECOMMENDED EXCHANGEABLE FOR LEGAL-TENDER NOTES.

President's message on the subject of the resumption of

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 .- The following is the

President's message on the subject of the resumption of specie payments:

To the Senate and House of Representatives: By the act of Congress approved Jan. 14, 1875, "To provide for the resumption of specie payments," the 1st of January, 1879, is fixed as the date when such resumption is to begin. It may not be desirable to fix an earlier date when it shall actually become obligatory upon the Government to redeem its outstanding legal-tender notes if com on presentation, but it is certainly most desirable and will prove most beneficial to every pecuniary interest of the country to hasten the day when the paper circulation of the country and the gold coin shall have equal values. At a later day if currency and coin should retain equal values it might become advisable to authorize a direct resumption. I believe the time has come when by a simple act of the legislative branch of the Government this most desirable result can be attained. I am strengtiened in this view by the course trade has taken in the last two

was an elector on the Hayes and Wheeler ticket. He says that he did not think that as an examining surreon of the Pension-Office he held such office of trust or profit as disqualified him from being an elector under the provisions of the Constitution. He held the place of surgeon when he was elected, and when he cast has vote in the college, and held the position now. He received no satiry, but received a fee of \$2\$ in each case of examination. No question of his eligibility was raised before the election, but was afterward.

Mr. Madox was recalled, and produced the letters of which he had previously spoken.

Mr. Pield then read the open letters, as follows:

New-Onleans, Nov. 20, 1876.

76 Mr. J. H. Maddox, Nov. Colleans, Dear Ser. Understanding the political condition of matters and some prompt and as a friend of the President and a Governmeht officer, would it not be considered a part of your — to go at once to Washington with as little dear a possible, and place before the President the condition, and onleade upon you will freely communicate. Yours every traity.

J. Maddox West.

The witness said that when he first alimed to these letters they were in New-Orleans, but had been received that he was pesterday dismissed as agent of the Internal Revenue Burean. At this point Scantor West came the would open the letter, which he did, and read its contents as follows:

New-Orleans, but had been received that he was pesterday dismissed as agent of the Internal Revenue Burean. At this point Scantor West came here. I wanted to say much to you when here. I wanted to say much to you when here, I wanted to say much to you when here, I wanted to say much to you when here, I wanted to say much to you when he would open the letter, which he did, and read its contents as follows:

New-Orleans, La, Nov. 21, 1876.

Mr Dean Senator:

New-Orleans, but had been received the would open the letter, which he did, and read its contents as follows:

New-Orleans, but had been received that he was pesterday dismissed as agent of the I

WHY RICHMOND WAS BURNED. AN ACT OF THE CONFEDERATE CONGRESS REQUIRING IT ON AN EVACUATION.

INT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. Washington, Feb. 4.-New light seems to be thrown upon the old controversy as to the responsi-bility for the partial destruction of Richmond at its vacuation by the Confederate forces at the close of the war. In a suit pending in the Circuit Court at Richmond, entitted Graham against the Mutual Assurance Society of Richmond, this question has been raised. The company sets up the defense that the burning of the city was between him and myself and create that my testimony in produced, I most respectfully insist that my testimony in relation to these matters should be taken without delay. I teel it is due me that what I may desire to say on that subject should be known to the committee immediately, and that the facts should go to the country with those letters. There is nothing connection with my conduct as a member of the Esturning Board or as an individual touching the subject under consideration, which I desire to withhold. On the contrary, I am anxious that the whole of these facts shall be known. I also desire to be interrogated in relation to the matter resulted to be the witness littlefield affecting me, and I most respectfully protest against further clearly in the matter of my examination.

The room was cleared for consultation, and this request of Gov. Wells was considered at a secret session. The committee by a party vote refused to grain if, the free forms of the Confederate Congress requiring the officer in command at Endmand to the total city, in obsilence to a stature of the Confederate Congress requiring the effect in command at Endmand to the total city whenever it should fall into the hands of the Limon torses.

FIVE FIREMEN INJURED.

EFFECTS OF AN EXPLOSION AT A BROADWAY FIRE-MARVIN & CO.'S SALESBOOMS DAMAGED \$20,000. A fire broke out at 9:45 p. m. yesterday in the four-story building at No. 265 Broadway, occupied by Marvin & Co., safe manufacturers. The cause of the could not be ascertained. The first intimation of the fire was given by the large quanti-ties of smoke issuing from the front windows and door. Engines Nos. 12, 4, 9, and 31, with Hock and Ladder tracks. Nos. 1 and 10, were quickly on the spot. The flames were found to fill the basement and first floor of the building. A second alarm was sounded at 10:05 p. m., and several more engines and Chemical Truck No. 8 promptly responded. Chief-Engineer Bonar directed the men to force an en-trance into the cellar and descend with the bese. No by the accumulation of gas and heat, shattered the windows and threw the firemen to the ground. Foreman | that the Republicans would only desire to introduce Kehoe of Engine No. 17 was badly cut by pieces of glass; James Campbell of the same company had his breast cut open; John Driscoll's hand and arm were cut, and John Smith | the resignation of Humphreys. men were taken to the Chambers Street Hespital, where

The strike of the Brooklyn grain-heavers and storehouse workmen continues. The strikers now number over 600, and it is expected that more workmen will join them to-day from the sugar and cotton ware houses, where a reduction in wages has also been made that they will not work for 20 cents an hour, and that urday night the police force was further strengthened strikers that the warehouses were to be burned. No lucendiary attempts were made, however, as the streets in the immediate vicinity of the warehouses were kept clear of men of suspicious appearance. Very few of the strikers were closed. A strong police guard was left at the ware-houses during the day, and at night was doubled. Fire docks last night. Arrangements have been made for a day. Steps have been taken at the solicitation of Hazeltine & Co. to have guards placed at the different ferries leading

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES-BY TELEGRAPH. PORTLAND, Me., Feb. 4.—James Welch fell down-stairs a his residence on Centre-st, and was instantly killed. Boston, Feb. 4.—John Murray has been arrested on suspicion of having caused the cessit of his mother in law.

ancey bempsey.

Boston, Feb. 4.—Guilford White, an attorney-atof this city, has been found guilty of fed States bonds of \$10,000 cach. Boston, Feb. 4.-Minme and Annie Striley and

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.-A man named Bennett, connected with a silver-plating establishment here, came to a sudden death to-day from the effects of drinking acid used in such business, mistaking it for water.

POTISVILLE, Pean., Feb. 4.—The jury in the case of Henry D. Boas Secretary of the Culzens' Building and Loan Association of Sheinandoon, has fendered a verdict of guilty. Boas was a defaulter for nearly \$7,000. Boss whe a defaulter for nearly \$7,000.

POTTSVILLE, Penn., Feb. 4.—Joseph F. Dengler, excasher of the Pennsylvania National Bank of this city, has been sentenced to imprisonment for two years and two months in the Eastern Pentientiary for embezzling about \$3,000, of which 20,000 have been returned by his friends.

COUNTING THE VOTE.

THE POWERS OF THE COMMISSION. SATURDAY'S ARGUMENTS GO TO THE HEART OF THE QUESTION-SPEECHES BY O'CONOR, BLACK, MER-

RICK, MATTHEWS, AND STOUGHTON. The Electoral Commission heard arguments on Saturday from Messrs. O'Conor, Merrick, and Black, in behalf of the Democrats, and Stanley Matthews and Mr. Stoughton in behalf of the Republicans, on the question of going behind the Florida certificates, and admitting evidence. Mr. O'Conor and Mr. Evarts will speak to-day. It is believed that the decision will be for the Republican certificates. Democrats begin to doubt whether the Commission will get through before March 4, and members of the Commission think they will.

A REVIEW OF THE SITUATION.

ARGUMENTS OF THE LAWYERS. CHARLES O'CONOR'S POINTS-STANLEY MATTHEW MAKES AN ABLE SPEECH.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Washington, Feb. 4.-The Electoral Commission began yesterday the consideration of one of the most important questions which will be presented to them during their entire session. Suspending for a time the consideration of the facts and the law in the Florida case, they branched off on interlocutory questions of its jurisdiction, its power to consider evidence of any kind except that presented to the two houses by the President of the Senate, and the extent to which such evidence should be admitted if received at all.

At the opening of its session Judge Clifford an-

nounced to the counsel objecting to the Hayes certificate that an opportunity was then presented for them to offer evidence, and for the other side to object to its reception. Charles O'Conor abandoned the absurd position taken by Mr. Field in his argument of Friday that it was the duty of the Commission to inquire touching the proceedings of the local in the State; and he suggested that all the evidence necessary to be considered might be classed under six heads as follows: First, the documents showing that two sets of electors met and cast their votes on the 6th of December, 1876, and that all the forms of law and Constitution were complied with, except that the certified lists in one case were signed by the Governor of the State, and in the other by the Secretary of the State; no evidence except the official papers would be offered on this point. Second, the papers showing that a writ of quo warranto had been served upon the Hayes electors before they cast their votes and determined Jan. 25: no additional proof on this point would be necessary unless it be desired by the Tilden electors to prove the service of this writ before the yote was east, or by the Hayes electors to show that an appeal had been taken from the Circuit Court. Third, proof by the Democrats to show the common law of Florida and the interpretation of the statutes touching the subject of Presidential elections ; the counsel for the Democrats wish to prove the mandamus against Gov. Stearns and its results. Fourth, the records to show the legislation of Florida subsequent to December, 1876, authorizing and directing a recanvass of the votes, and the performance of this in conformity with the Constitution and laws, except as to time. Fifth, proof by the Democrats to show that the Board of State Canvassers rejected the entire returns from one county and part of the returns from three others, acting without jurisdiction: the only evidence necessary to be introduced to prove this to consist of the canvass and returns; the Democrats also desire to show that Humphreys, one of the Hayes electors, was a United States officer, and therefore ineligible at the time of his election.

Mr. Evarts, on the part of the Republicans, objected to evidence of this kind being introduced. After wounds were dressed. Meanwhile, the firemen some colloquy between the counsel and members of diction and of the reception of testimony. This argument was opened in the afternoon by Mr. Merrick for the Democrats, who was followed by Judge Jeremiah Black and by Stanley Matthews and E. W. Stoughton for the Republicans. Mr. Evarts and Charles O'Conor will complete the argument to-morrow. On the decision of these questions the whole controversy may be determined. If it is decided that the Commission can take cognizance only of such papers as were laid before both houses of Congress by the Vice-President, then Florida and Lou islana must both be counted for Hayes. If it is deided that the Commission can go behind those papers and inquire as to the authority by which they were sent to Washington, then the final result of the Presidential election will depend on the legality of

evidence as to the appeal taken from the decision of

the Circuit Court of the State of Florida and as to

the action of the returning boards. Of the speeches made yesterday that of Stanley Matthews was by far the ablest and most effective. Mr. Merrick stated the case for the Democrats with onsiderable point, but Judge Black simply indulged in a stump speech which mucht have had effect with an ignorant jury, but certainly will not help the Democratic case with the learned Electoral Commission. Stanley Matthews's speech was not a showy one, but consisted of a clear, direct, and wonderfully foreible presentation of the law and the facts in the case. The effect of it has been to encourage the Republicans greatly and they have been very hopeful ever since the adjournment of the session last night. Mr. Matthews's speech is undoubtedly the strongest and probably the most effective of any yet

made before the Commission.

After the Commission listen to-morrow to the renaining arguments on their powers and the evidence which they ought to admit, they will go into what might be called executive session. There is no rule limiting the discussion that may take place in secret session between members of the Commission; but as the speeches will not be reported, and will not therefore be made for the public, it is believed that they will be very brief. It is supposed that a decision will be reached as to Florida by Wednesday or Thursday next. Their decision as to which vote is to be counted will be sealed up and delivered to the President of the Senate, and when that officer receives it he will reconvene the Joint Convention, open and announce the verdict, and the count will then proceed. It is thought the count can proceed as far as to Louisiana and the Commission can get to work this week on that State. The Louisiana case it is easy to see will be very much simplified by the rulings of the Commission on the preliminary questions in the Florida

LOUISIANA TESTIMONY. THE DEMOCRATIC SIDE OF IT PRIVALELY PRINTED

AND SENT WITHOUT AUTHORITY TO THE COM-[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Feb. 4. - The Democrats of the House Committee on Prerogatives have resorted to a trick in order to get the testimony of Littlefield and Maddox before the Electoral Commission. They have had printed at a private office in this city a pamphlet of about 200 pages, with the following title: "Testimony relating to Louisiana, taken by the Committee of the House of Representatives on the Powers Privileges and Duties of the House of Representatives in counting the electoral vote. The Hen. J. Proctor Knott, chairman." To prevent the Republicans from insisting

the testimony of their witnesses should first be heard, in order that all might go to the country together, David Dudley Field and his associates had the compilation privately and secretly printed and laid before the Commission. This pamphlet also contains the examination of one member, Mr. Kenner of the Louisiana Returning Board, but not a line of his cross-examination. A similar collection of onesided and incomplete testimony in regard to Louisiana is in press, giving all the evidence taken for the purpose of reflecting on the Returning Board, but nothing on the other side. It is a very serious question whether Mr. Field has not been guilty of a gross violation of the privileges of the House in thus printing an unfair and partial account of the proceedings of the committee without the knowledge of all its members, and by means unsanctionetioned by

PROSPECTS AS TO FLORIDA. A VERDICT FOR THE REPUBLICANS PROBABLE-

JUDGE BLACK DEJECTED. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.-None of the numerous

opinions expressed to-day in regard to the action of the Electoral Commission on the Florida case are founded upon anything which has been said by any member of that tribunal. One of the Commisioners said to-night that he had never been associated with a body of men engaged in a common occupation where there was so little interchange of thought or opinion; he had sat thus beside a friend he had known for many years on the Commission, and the first word has not been interchanged between them upon the subjects of the argument or case. The Congressional members of the Commission seem inclined to wait for the judges to suggest opinions, and the judges with the reserve to which the Supreme bench is accustomed have as yet given no sign. They are undoubtedly waiting for the concluding arguments to-morrow. Some of the Democratic politicians cannot conceal their want of confidence in the result. Mr. Morrison, who is a very free talker, does not hesitate to express the opinion that the Democrats have no chance before the Commission. He thinks that the instincts of the Commission are against his side, and very severely criticizes the interference of the New-York Democrats with the concerns of the party. He says he was sent to New-Orleans by the House Chairman of the Investigating Committee, and that when he came back with a strong case; that on arriving here he found David Dudley Field in charge of the interests of the Democratic party, and that he had so conducted them as to ruin their chances. Like expressions of this disaffection, although more guarded, have been heard in other quarters among the Democrats. Judge Black does not conceal his belief that the verdict of the Commission will be against his party. His speech yesterday is generally said to be a failure. He seems conscious of this himself, and intimate that his heart is not in it, that he had an uphill task, and that the Commission is against his side.

Republicans do not think it possible that it will be decided to go back of the verdict of the Canvassing Board to ascertain how the people of this, that, or the other precinct or county voted. The only really open question, they believe, is that relating to the effect of the quo warranto proceedings on the formality of the action of the Hayes electors. There are one or two nice legal points here which may influence the votes of the Supreme Court judges Upon these points it is thought the whole Florida case will hinge. Republican mem bers of the Commission say that if it should be held that by instituting que warrante proceedings a beaten party can invalidate the action of an electoral college there would be an end of Presidential elections by the people. It would always be possible to keep litigation alive for three months after the electors met by appeals and delays, so that the 4th of March would arrive before it could be decided who had a right to exercise the functions of electors. If the Florida courts have the power to settle this question of title, then it must be taken as not yet settled, for while the Circuit Court decided in favor of Tilden electors the case has been appealed, and the Supreme Court, has not rendered

The absurdity of the position that courts can make and unmake electors long after the day and the only day on which they can perform the duties Matthews in his speech yesterday.

The Critic of last fevening printed the statement hat Senator Conkling had expressed the opinion to ne of its reporters that Mr. Tilden would be inaugtrated, and that the action on the case of Florida would decide the metter in his favor. Many Republicans do not credit the story.

WILL THE TRIBUNAL ELECT? PREDICTIONS THAT THE COMPROMISE WILL FAIL-THE COMMISSION, HOWEVER, ANXIOUS TO SUCCEED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Washington, Feb. 4.-Predictions are quite comuon that the Electoral Commission will not complete its work in time to announce a result before the 4th of March. These, however, are regarded here by most people as altogether idle, for the reason that a large majority of the Commission arpersonally interested in reaching a definite concludon. The seven members upon it who are, so to spenk, patentees of this method of electing a President, will not care to be overwhelmed by the universal ridicule which would be showered upon them if their patent failed. These seven are Mesers, Edmunds, Frelinghuysen, Thurman, Bayard, Payne, Hunton, and Hoar. No one doubts but that Messrs, Morton and Garfield will also be anxions to reach a decision; and of the four ustices first chosen, it is safe to say the same of Messrs, Strong and Miller. This makes up eleven out of lifteen who are certain to insist that a result shall be ascertained and announced. As yet there has not been the slightest indication that the four remaining members of the Commission are not as earnest as any of their associates in the desire to finish their work in ample time for an inauguration. As the Commission make their own rules and can change them at will by a majority vote, there seems to be no ground for the opinion which is gaining circulation that the matter may be allowed to go ever the 4th of March.

Certain Democrats are circulating a story that the most likely solution is an election by the House, brought about either by throwing out Louisiana altogether or receiving only two votes from Oregon. It is significant that this opinion comes from Democrats who up to the time the Commission met stoutly maintained that Mr. Tilden carried Louisiand and Florida, and that the Oregon case was of no consequence except to force Congress to go behind the returns. Republicans, however, are giving themselves no special concern over the Oregon vote, and even Judge Jeremiah Black says in private conlaw of Oregon is so plain in regard to electors filling a vacancy which may occur from any cause as to leave Mr. Tilden no ground to stand on there. There are, in fact, very few who believe that such a Commission as has been chosen will care to throw out the vote of Louisiana, and thus place themselves in the position of deciding that where an odd number of electoral votes has been cast they cannot say which candidate has received a majority. Almost the universal opinion is that the patentees will surely see to it that in some way their plan is made to work.

As to going behind the returns, it is believed that a majority of the Congressional portion of the Commission will be deterred from that step for fear of risking failure; and in addition to this it appears that several lawyers here who are on intimate terms with various justices of the court have, upon comparing views, united in the belief that the justices,

or a majority of them, will vote not to go behind the NO CHANCE FOR CRONIN.

REPUBLICANS IN NO DILEMMA-THE DECISION OF THE CANVASSING AUTHORITY FINAL. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 .- At the outset of the great national lawsuit the Democrats make the disheartening discovery that the point in their adversaries' line of defense which they thought fatally weak is tolerably well fortified, if not absolutely impregnable. They imagined that the Republicans could set up no theory which could save them the votes of Florida and Louisiana and which could be applied to Oregon without the recognition of Cronia's electoral college as a natural consequence Ever since the Oregon fraud was consummated the Democrats have constantly thrust at their opponents this dilemma: "Go behind the returns, and we will take the two Southern States. Refuse to go behind the returns, and you must give us one vote from Oregon."

Now the Republicans refuse to accept either horn of the supposed dilemma. They do not say that there is no power in the Commission to go back of the returns. What they assert is, that there is no power to go beyond the authoritative and final declaration of the result of an election by State authority. The Governor's certificate is not an essential part of that declaration. It is required not by State law, but by the United States statute. It may be a false certificate, as is that of Gov. Grover. Congress, and therefore the Commission, is not bound to accept it as conclusive. The purpose of the count is to ascertain what was the declared will of the State as announced by the anthority created by its laws to canvass and determine the vote for electors, and the Commission can go beyond the returns to ascertain what was the act of that authority, but not a step further. There is the line which divides the General Government and the State Government. In Oregon the canvassing authority was not the Governor, but the Secretary of State; in Florida, it was not the Governor, but the Canvassing Board. The Republican theory, therefore, is that the Commission may do everything necessary to learn the legal State authority vested with the power to determine the result of the election and what the action of that authority was; but that they cannot go a step further without invading the rights of the State.

Afraid to take the ground that the Commission is a large national returning board, with power to try accusations of fraud in every precinct in the United States and to decide how every citizen voted or meant to have voted, the Democratic counsel appear disposed to claim only that the Tribunal can inquire and determine whether a State canvassing board acted in strict compliance with law. But this doctrme, carried forward to its necessary consequences, involves an investigation just as much as the other. involves an investigation just as made as the other Suppose, for example, that the Commission should decide that the Florida canvassers had no right to reject the returns from a certain county, and that these returns should be counted. The question at once comes up, What were the valid returns t One party would claim that the vote in certain precinets was tainted with franci, and the other party would made also charges against other precinets; and the make like charges against other precincts; and the Commission, to arrive at a just verdict, would have to take evidence as to how every man voted in the county. If they possessed any such power, it would be impracticable to exercise it, because the 4th of March would arrive long before it had reached a

THE TRIBUNAL'S PROCEEDINGS.

FLORIDA ARGUMENTS. MODE OF THE TRIAL.

Washington, Feb. 4.-The commission was called to order at 10:30 a. m. yesterday. The crossing Justice began the work of the day by remarking that, without consulting the commission, it seemed to him that the Democratic ounsel retained in the case of Florida should make their offers of proof first, then the Republican counsel jections to proof being in order.

Mr. Charles O'Conor, representing the Democratic ob ectors, said that he had prepared a stat ment as to what comed to him desirable matter in the nature of evidence be laid before the commission-as distinct, succinct, brief, explanatory, and intelligible a statement as by the

Mr. Wm. M. Evarts, representing the Republicans, said that if this were the order of the commission as to the manner of conduct of the trial it was the first knowledge

a but that that order would be the mode of this trial.

MR. O'CONOR'S STATEMENT. WHAT PROOF MAY BE OFFERED.

Mr. O'Conor then began his statement in be-

half of the objectors to Certificate No. 1 from the State of Farida. He said that he had prepared himself to lay the facts of the case before the commission in a condensed form. He said that his conception of the proper course of proceeding was that all needful evidence should come into the statement, subject to objections to its comp ency and effect. A different course might be taken before this tribunal of judicial experts in regard to the in roduction of evidence than is generally taken in a court of law, where an ignorant jury is apt to be misled by hearing something which is not to be taken into judgment in the final consideration of the case. Mr. O'Conor then read the paper he had prepared, as follows:

this: The certified lists provided for in Section No. 156 of the Revised Statutes were as to the Hiden electors certified by the Atfornev-General, and were as to the Hayes electors certified by Mr. Stearns, then Governor. All this appears on record, and no additional evidence is needed to interpret any part of it. Perhaps I convey no new light by saying that; out I say it for the purpose of presenting a distinct view of the case.

Second: A quo variento was commenced against the Hayes electors in the proper court of Florida on the said 6th day of December, 1876, before they had cast their votes, which eventuated in a Judgment against them on the 25th of January, 1877, which also determined that the Hiden electors were duly appointed. The validity and effect of this judgment is determined by the record, and no evidence seems to be desirable on order side, un-

the record of the judgment of the Supreme Court in that State on a mandamus presecuted on the relation of Mr. Drew, the present Governor of that State, by force of which Mr. Stearns was obsted and Mr. Drew was admitted as Governor. This judgment, together with the judges opinion, are matters of record, and they require no other proof, nor is there any technical rule as to the manner in which this Commission may inform itself concerning the laws of Florida. If I may be permitted to interject it will be seen that I am endeavoring to show how very little there is in the shape of proof.

Fourth: The legislation of Florida subsequently to Dec. 6, 1876, authorizing a new canvass of the electoral vote, and the fact of such a new canvass and the format transmission thereof to the seat of government in perfect conformity to the Constitution and law, except that they were subsequent in point of time to Dec. 6, 1876, are all matters of record and alleady regularly before the Commission.

Figh: The only matters which the Tilden charges dec.

Figh: The only matters which the Tilden electors deare to lay before the commissioners by evidence actually extrinsic will now be stated: First, the Board of State Lanvassers, acting on certain erroneous yews while making their canvass, by which the Hayes electors up

States. State: Judging from the objections taken by those sup-porting the Hayes electors and the opening argument offered in their behalf, the supporters of the Titlen elec-tors are led to believe that no evidence is needed or in-tended to be offered by the supporters of the Hayes elec-